

My name is Tiffany Sybesma I live in Sherwood a small town in Branch County. Our son is in third grade and our daughter is in first grade. My husband and I really started to notice last year something was wrong with our sons math curriculum. We had been working with him at home teaching basic adding and subtracting using the stacking method that we were all taught. Our son was becoming confused with this new math he was being taught at school, it was very different from what he was used to. I went to the school and spoke to the teacher. I was confused just trying to look over his homework and helping him with basic math using this new system. I told his teacher this seems very counterproductive and like a waste of class time, there's so many confusing steps to find such a simple answer. His teacher was supportive of us teaching him the math we all know but he was required to learn this new math too. Now let me explain my son was diagnosed at 4 years old with Autism. He is a very intelligent child and fortunately for him math comes very easy. But he started to become withdrawn, frustrated and unhappy when it came time to do his math homework he would end up in tears or a meltdown. He is required to show his work which is hard for him because he just knows the answers and using the stacking method takes seconds for him to complete. But now it was taking sometimes five minutes to finish a math problem showing his work using the common core method. He was confused to why shapes were now representing numbers. This year started third grade for our son we met with the new teacher and voiced our concerns with the common core curriculum, the teacher agreed but there was nothing that he could do about it. The huge difference from last year is the entire class focus has now shifted to preparing for M-Step testing. We have opted our son out of the M-Step, he would not do well being forced to sit for so long testing for days on a computer. Every day they in class they are working on preparation for this end of year test that has absolutely no bearing on their grade whatsoever. Vast amounts of class time is now wasted in the daily training for M-Step. Now this takes me to the performance based evaluations for the teachers. This has created a very hostile environment for our teachers. In speaking with staff at our school they are now in


constant fear of losing their jobs based on their students testing outcomes and they are afraid to speak out to administration for fear of losing their jobs. These hard working teachers have to go to school with knots in their stomachs full of anxiety over these evaluations. This is not fostering a healthy environment for our children to be taught in. Please repeal the common core and take us back to what works.

# How Many Legs?

Solve the problems and show your solutions.

1. Cats have 4 legs.

How many legs are on 3 cats?

12             $4 \times 3 = 12$   
 $4 + 4 + 4$   
 4      8      12      12 legs

How many legs are on 7 cats?

28      

How many legs are on 26 cats?

  
 $4 + 4$

2. Insects have 6 legs.

How many legs are on 3 insects?

18 legs      

How many legs are on 7 insects?

  
 12      18      24      30      36      42

How many legs are on 15 insects?

  
 12      18      24      30      36      42      48      54      60      66      72      78      84      90      96      102      108      114      120



Name

Lan

Date

Collections and Travel Stories



# Assessment: Addition Strategies

Solve each problem below. Show your solutions.

1.  $248 + 172 = 420$

~~$200 + 100 = 300$~~

$200 + 100 = 300$

$40 + 70 = 110$

$8 + 2 = 10$

420

2. There are 322 students in the South City Elementary School. In the South City High School, there are 184 students. How many students are there altogether in the two South City schools?

$322 + 184 = 506$

$300 + 100 = 400$

$20 + 80 = 100$

$2 + 4 = 6$

506